Dragon Knights

TOKYOPOP

Mineko Ohkami

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DRAGON KNIGHTS 26

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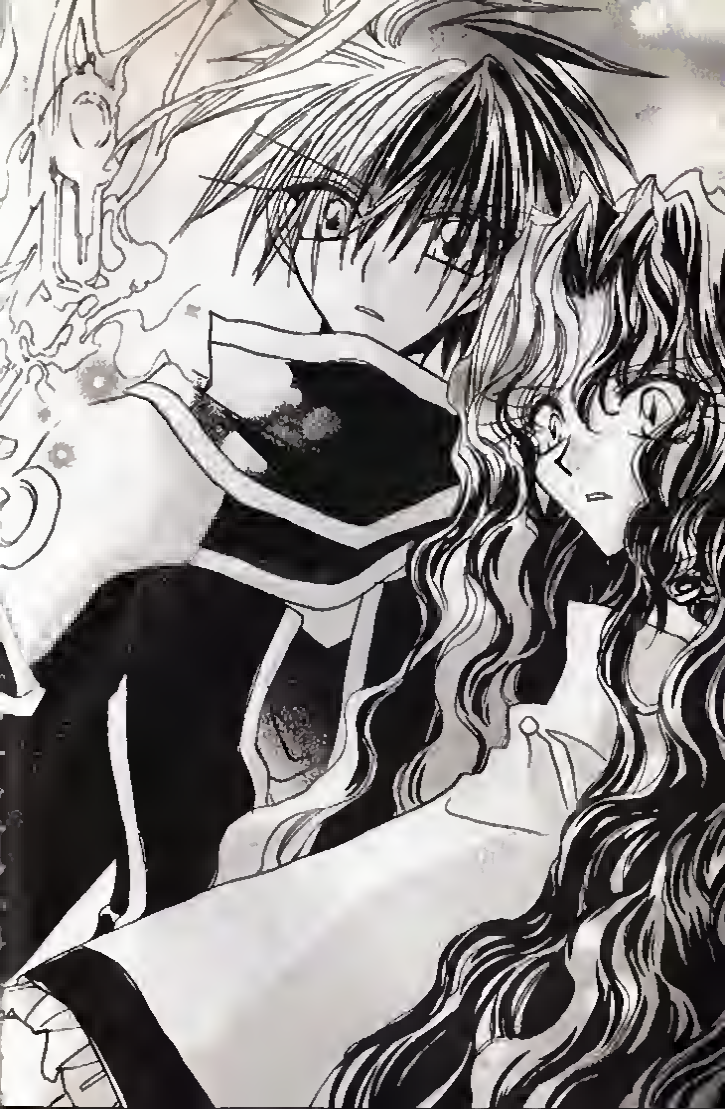
Mineko Ohkami



Dragon Knights

Written and Illustrated by
Mineko Ohkami

Volume 26

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

THE DRAGON LORD & THE DEMON LORD:

A HISTORY OF THE BATTLE TO CONTROL DUSIS

AS PENNED BY

CERN OZURA

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE

DRAGONICA TUL IN THE REALM OF [illegible]

The Keeper of the Tome

My name is Cernozura and I am the chief administrator for the Dragon castle, Dragueen, in the heart of Dragoon the Dragon Kingdom. Within these pages, I will attempt to chronicle the events of yesteryear in the hopes that it will, in turn, offer some future understanding of the chaos that currently befalls us. I feel it's imperative that I record a comprehensive history of the events that have led to this dark hour, for I fear that none will remain to tell the tale. My only hope is that this tome may survive so that future generations will know of the valiance of the Dragon Tribe.

Rise of the Demon Lord

Our worst fears have come to pass. The Demon Lord Nodil has been resurrected, and he has stolen from the bosom of our care the fortuneteller Cesta, who harbors an incredible magic that we have only just begun to witness. In the service of a villain as pernicious as Nodil, Cesta whether against her will or willingly giving in to the seductive charm of the dreaded Demon Lord, may prove to be the most dangerous threat we've faced.

Into the Abyss

The Dragon Knights have been dispatched to Ramaldia, the kingdom of the Demon Lord, charged with rescuing Cesta. While their journey was not without its share of peril, all three Knights have at last gained entry to Nodil's castle, an ominous-looking fortress that rests atop a dead island surrounded by an ocean of souls. And, remarkably, they were not the only ones.

In addition to the thousands of demons that swear allegiance to Nodil, there is at least one who doesn't. Zoma, the small, winged demon, has long been a companion of Cesta. Attempting to bring her the powerful wind staff that was bequeathed to us by the Star Princess, Zoma has joined with Ritchel, a thief who has proven herself to be a loyal ally to Lykoureon Ringleys, Ritchel's faerie companion, and Tintlet Rune's beloved. They too have gained entrance to Nodil's palace and word has reached our far palace that they have joined forces with the Dragon Knights.

Unfortunately all three Knights were captured and imprisoned in Nadil's crack dungeon. It is then that Ruth suggests that Leona be his replacement so that he and the Dragon Clan can be free. If the Dragon Realm is to find victory against the demon horde that has plagued it for centuries Ruth must sacrifice his very life. Cesta vows to find Ruth's spirit a corporeal body and uses the sacred Dragon Eye to transport her and the Knights to the western continent of Dusk.

And though Thatlex restores Anabel's memory he does soon after. Lykoulcon and Rastleous give Richel a magic gun named Rubicon to give to Cesta and Ruth back in the foreign world. Meanwhile, Abydemon and Fedelite show up at the sanctuary of the dragon castle with a special sword and awaken the monster Paumagit. Fedelite completes his mission by melding Anabel's lifeless body with the sword. Anabel is then absorbed by Paumagit as it rises and in a last ditch effort to stop the monster Thatz, Rune and Ramalk manage to extract Anabel from Paumagit's body to stop the beast's destructive rampage.

By using Leona's body, Cesta finally revives Ruth. Nadil shocks Ruth by telling Ruth who he really is...the original "Demon King of the East"—Artinus. Nadil claims that the dragon emperor made Ruth part of the dragon family while meanwhile, back in the Dragon Kingdom, as Thatz, Rune and Ramalk fight back hordes of demons. Alfeegi comes back from the land of the dead to ask Anabel to help. Anabel doesn't really know what to do, but follows the path that Alfeegi created. There he meets Tarkeus, who advises Anabel to find a diamond clover.

The Heroes of Dragon Knights

Lord Lykouleon

The beloved Dragon Lord Lykouleon is the sovereign ruler of Dragicon. The resources of the Dragon Clan and the might of the Dragon Army are at his command.

Lady Raseleane

Lykouleon's queen, the Lady Raseleane was restored human by the Demon Lord and united to provide Lykouleon with an heir.

Dragon Officers

Harnessing the power of the five Dragon Rods, the Dragon Officers should number five strong but after the Demon Army's assault on Dragicon only three officers remain.

Ruwalk

The Yellow Dragon Officer and Secretary of State

Tetheus

The Black Dragon Officer and Secretary of Security

Cernozura

The Dragon Castle Administrator. Cernozura is also a self appointed castle historian.

Dragon Knights

Rath

The Dragon Knight of Fire. Rath is part Yukua and lives for killing demons.

Thartz

The Dragon Knight of Earth. The big man Thartz was once a thief so it's love for gold hasn't abated.

Rune

The Dragon Knight of Water. Rune is an elf and has abilities the other two Dragon Knights lack.

Other Allies

Cesia

A half human fortuneteller with the ability to enhance the power of those I close proximity to her.

Zoma

Cesia's demon friend and companion.

Tintlet

A fairie who has sacrificed much for her beloved Rune and her dying race.

Kitchel

Another thief trying to steal from Kitchel possesses the powerful Three Treasures and is trying to get them to Draqueen.

Kingsleys

A fairie who was rescued from a demon and now accompanies Kitchel.

Deite

Lykouleon's human fortuneteller

Star Princess

Not much is known about this powerful princess, but she has an allied Rath on several occasions.

The Star Princess's bodyguard. Both the Princess and Grimfish seem to be friendly to Lykouleon's cause.

Grimfish

Domro

A human in the service of Draqueen. Has assisted Rune in the past.

The Villains of Dragon Knights

Nadil

The evil and justly feared Demon Lord Nadil had been slain by the Dragon Lord, but his body was recently retrieved and resurrected by his loyal army. Now he rises again, predator over the Demon Realm, hungry for revenge.

Demon Officers

Shydeman

One of Nadil's generals, Shydeman led the successful attack on Dragonia that brought back the Demon Lord.

Shyrendora

Another general, Shyrendora is sister to Shydeman and also to Tellesia, who fights against her as one of the Dragon Officers.

Fedelta

Answering directly to Shydeman, Fedelta has become one of the most vicious officers in the Demon Army.

Lady Medusea

Another officer in Nadil's army, Medusea has an ongoing rivalry with Fedelta.

Other Enemies

Bierrez

The infamous rogue demon Bierrez's loyalties lie not with the Demon Lord, but with himself.

Saabel

The so-called "Duchess of Corpses" Saabel possesses the ability to reanimate the dead into puppets he controls.

Leelu Reet

Small and powerful, Leelu Reet holds a special connection with—and strong hatred for—the reformed Lan Kuang.

Lan Kuang, an unyielding foe of Lykosian's enemies in the Realm Wizard Academy on the first continent of Arlean, Khart is intelligent, powerful and longs to rule both the Dragon and Demon Realms. Thus far Khart has helped Lykosian Wizardess, but it's only a matter of time until he sees his alliance as null as well.

Khart

The Realm Wizard Khart is an all-powerful captain of cunning, fantastic abilities. Behind all legions of them is Lady Kyrin.

Garfakey

Khart's human assistant Garfakey is angry and impatient. He wishes to become a captain of a cruel Khart, but hopelessly unprepared.

DUSIS
HYURAV
GLACIOSA
KAINALDIA
MEMPHIS
HERMOSA
KUULTA
DRAGOON
THREE POLES OF BEGINNING
N
ARINAS

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WELL...
EA TH--
I'M NOT A SEAHORSE, EITHER!!
SEAHOR--
I'M NOT AN EARTHWORM!!!

DRAGON KNIGHTS
ドラゴン騎士団
異ノ下編
World Away

A HUGE, UGLY MONSTER WAS SENT FROM THE FOREIGN WORLD TO THE DRAGON WORLD.
LISTEN TO ME...
IT'S DISRUPTED THE PEACE THERE!!
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
WHAT?
ME?
WITH-OUT A DOUBT.
NO!! YOU ARE!
A SPINY LOBSTER/ SEAHORSE?
AND DO YOU KNOW WHO'S TO BLAME?

YOU EVOKED YUSURUG!...
...REMEMBER?!
AND SINCE IT'S YOUR MESS, YOU GOTTA FIX IT.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?! YOU'RE JUST A SPINY LOBSTER THINGY!
WHACK
あーキック
MY NAME IS DIAMOND CLOVER.
I AM A SOUL WITHOUT A BODY.
AND YOUR ACTIONS HAVE DISRUPTED WHAT SHOULD'VE BEEN MY ETERNAL REST.

THE DRAGON WORLD IS NOW IN SERIOUS DANGER.

HEY!
RUNE!!

DID YOU GET THAT?
DO YOU NEED ME TO REPEAT IT?
I GET IT! JEEZ... YOU'RE BECOMING TO SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD.
I'LL DO MY BEST NOT TO RELEASE VARAWOO.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT ITS POWER WILL DO TO SAABEL.

NO, RUWALK. WE ARE-- BUT NOT YOU.
I GUESS WE'RE GOING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CITY, THEN.
BUT HE'S THE MOST WORRIED ONE AMONG US.
HE LOOKS COOL AND COLLECTED.
WHY DON'T YOU STAY BEHIND AND WATCH HIM?
THE OTHER SIDE IS CLOSE TO THE DRAGON CASTLE. THAT'S WHERE LORD LYKOULEON IS. YUSURUGI IS STILL FAR FROM THERE...
WE NEED YOU TO STAY HERE AND WATCH SAABEL.
WE CANNOT FAIL.
IT'LL TAKE AN ALL-OUT WAR TO STOP YUSURUGI...

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE FROM SAABEL?
THAT MAY BE SO, BUT I HAVE TO RISK IT.
HE MIGHT TARGET ME. THE GOSETSUKEN I HAVE SOMEHOW HAS THE POWER TO STOP YUSURUGI.
THAT'S RIGHT...
BESIDES, WE STILL DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT EFFECT SAABEL MIGHT HAVE ON YUSURUGI.
I'LL FIGHT MY WAY BACK TO YOU...
...FROM THE OTHER SIDE!

MR. RUWALK, WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?
HALF OF YOU GO WITH THATZ...
THE REST, HOLD THIS SIDE OF THE LINE WITH ME.
!!

LETS TAKE SAABEL'S CORPSE TO A SAFER PLACE!
AFTER ALL...
...HE IS THE FAERIE THAT CAUSED YUSURUGI TO AWAKEN. WHO KNOWS WHAT HIS CORPSE CAN STILL DO...
WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN ONCE HIS BODY GETS CLOSE TO THE MONSTER.
WE CANNOT LET THOSE MONSTERS TAKE THE BODY, EITHER.

DAMMIT.
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH SOLDIERS.
IF ONLY TETHEUS WERE WITH US!!

THIS IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.
...AND AT THE SAME TIME...
...STOP YUSUTUGI...!
TO NOT RELEASE VARAWOO ...

IT IS THE ONLY SWORD THAT'S ANY MATCH FOR FEDELTA'S RETSUEIKEN!!
I STILL HAVE THE GOSETSUKEN!!
IT EXISTS FOR THAT PURPOSE ALONE.

THE DRAGON CLAN IS DESPERATELY TRYING TO STOP YUSURUGI!
...BUT IT IS CONSUMING EVERYTHING IN THE DRAGON WORLD, GROWING STRONGER BY THE MINUTE! ALL WILL BE CONSUMED AND TURNED INTO ANOTHER WRECKAGE OF THE FOREIGN WORLD!

WHY SHOULD I FOLLOW AN EARTHWORM?
IT'S NOT "OKAY" I WE HAVE TO GO!
OKAY.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU!
THIS IS YOUR MESS! YOU ARE THE ONE THAT MUST DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT!
YOU'RE SPITTING ON ME...
YOU WON'T BE EASILY FORGIVEN COME JUDGMENT DAY!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU HAVE TO GET YOUR BODY BACK AS WELL! YOU RE JUST A SOUL WITHOUT A BODY RIGHT NOW!
YOU CALL ME A SOUL WITHOUT A BODY AGAIN, AND I'LL...

IT'LL ALL MAKE SENSE ONCE WE GET THERE!
WALL.
OKAY.
SO WHICH WAY IS IT?
AND HOW DO I GET OUT OF THIS BUMPY TOWER?
IT'S A WALL!!
HURRY UP!!

IT'S FINE. GO STRAIGHT.
?!
.....?!

WE'RE TAKING A LITTLE DETOUR, THEN?
GO STRAIGHT. WE HAVE TO MAKE A STOP FIRST.
HOW DID I...?!

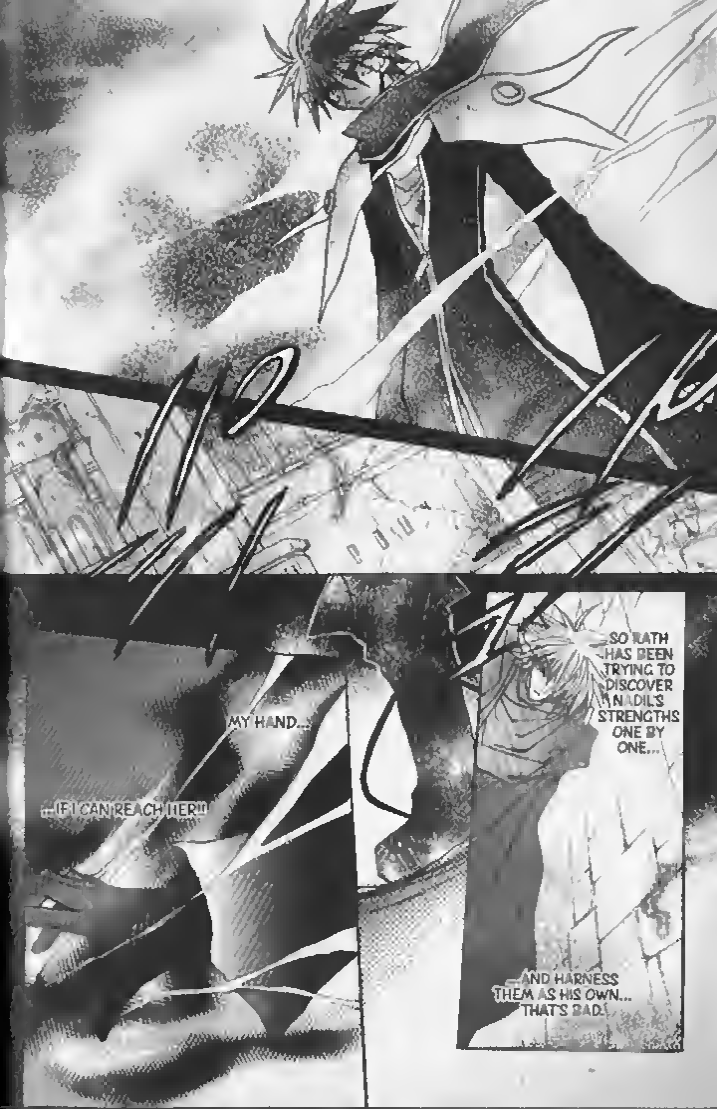
LEMME GUESS..
LIM KAANA.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SHE'S A FAERIE JUST LIKE YOU... HOWEVER, HER REASON FOR BEING HERE IS DIFFERENT. THE DEMON KING USED HER, MIXING ELEMENTS OF DARKNESS INTO HER.
IT'S BETTER TO GET AS MUCH POWER OF VIRTUE AS YOU CAN ON YOUR SIDE, AS THERE'S VERY LITTLE LEFT IN THE WORLD.
HEY...
WILL YOU EXPLAIN TO ME THE REASON WHY SHE'S HERE?

DON'T BE STUPID!
YOU'RE IGNORING ME...
!!!!!!
THOSE WHO HARNESS THE POWER OF VIRTUE HAVE A DUTY...
TO RESTORE A WORLD REQUIRES AS MUCH OF THE POWER OF VIRTUE AS POSSIBLE.

SAVING CESIA IS MY PRIORITY.
I WON'T LET HER FALL UNDER NADIL'S POWER.

I'VE ALREADY STARTED TO.
?!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO CAUSE ME TWICE AS MUCH PAIN AS I CAUSED YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED?
I'VE STAYED HERE TOO LONG!!
DAMN ...

IF ONLY MY POWER COULD REACH CESIA...
IF I COULD ONLY TOUCH HER...
HMPH. I SEE.
NO WONDER YOU LET ME RAMBLE ON FOR SO LONG.


...SO RATH HAS BEEN TRYING TO DISCOVER IN LOIL'S STRENGTHS ONE BY ONE...
...AND HARNESS THEM AS HIS OWN... THAT'S BAD!
MY HAND...
...IF I CAN REACH HER!!

...IS DESTROYING THE BALANCE OF THIS WORLD!!
THIS RAPID CHANGE OF DEMONIC POWER...
THE WORLD CAN'T WITHSTAND IT. IT'S TEARING APART AT THE SEAMS.
!!
I HAVE TO SHOW LORD KHARL APPRECIATION FOR THE SOUL HE GAVE ME. I HAVE TO GIVE THESE EIGHT BALLS THAT NADIA'S SOUL BACK TO HIM!

OH NO! THAT HOLE LEADS TO OTHER DIMENSIONS!
THE BALLS...!

PAAAH!

THIS WORLD IS COLLAPSING...
I FEEL NADIL'S PRESENCE... BUT I DON'T SEE HIM.
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE...

WHAT THE...?!

DON'T LISTEN TO THE VOICE!!
IT'S... IT'S DOING SOMETHING TO ME!
.....
.....!!

IT'S A SPELL THAT POISONS YOUR BLOOD AND FLESH...
...ESPECIALLY BLOOD AND FLESH LIKE YOURS...!!

ゴオ
!!!!

WAS THAT YOUR VOICE EARLIER?
...BIERREZ.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ゴゴゴ
LET'S HOPE THIS HALTED THE FLOW OF NEW DEMONS TO THE OTHER SIDE.
THE COLLAPSE OF THE CASTLE FILLED THE SEA OF THE DEAD.

LONG TIME NO SEE, "FIRE"...
HEY!
HOW CAN CESIA BE SLEEPING AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
PEEK
I GUESS THIS MEANS SHE MANAGED TO REVIVE RATH.
IT'S GETTING KINDA CROWDED UP HERE.

SHE HASN'T RECOVERED FROM NADIL'S SPELLS YET
HIS DEMON POWER HAS PENETRATED DEEP INTO HER BODY.
BESIDES THAT...
WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR WHEN NADIL RETURNS TO RETALIATE.
THE ONE WHO WAS ABSORBED INTO THE CASTLE...
...WAS THE ONE WHO FAILED TO CAPTURE CESIA'S POWER.
AM I RIGHT?
YES.
THAT WOULD BE CHIEF OFFICER SHYRENDORA.

SHE ASSIMILATED HERSELF WITH THE CASTLE...
IN THE END, HER POWERS WEREN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
BUT THEN, IT COLLAPSED.
I FOUND THE CORE OF SHYRENDORA'S DEMON POWER AND KILLED HER. DIDN'T I?
AS I RECALL, YOU WERE RUNNING AWAY!
WHAT?!
IT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE.
AFTER ALL, I ALMOST DEFEATED HER.

.....
HMM...
!
...CESIA!
NADIL'S DEMON POWER ISN'T AS PROMINENT NOW. I CAN SENSE IT.
.....

NO...!!
RRRRRIP!
!!
...WAIT.

NADIL!!
HE IS WEARING SOULS OF THE DEAD MEN FROM THE DEAD SEA...
...LIKE THEY'RE ARMOR!

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.
OUR POWER IS EVENLY MATCHED. IT SEEMS WE WILL KILL EACH OTHER AT LAST, BROTHER.
I DON'T THINK SO.
OUR POWERS MAY BE EQUAL IN STRENGTH...
...BUT THEY ARE INHERENTLY DIFFERENT.
ARE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT MY LORD NADIL AND...
...YOUR DRAGON EMPEROR?
WELL, THEN WE ALREADY KNOW THE OUTCOME...
YOUR DRAGON EMPEROR HAS ALREADY FALLEN...
...TO ONE OF LORD NADIL'S SPELLS.
.....

YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE DRAGON CLAN.
HEH...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
PERHAPS YOU'RE BLUFFING...
THEN WE'LL FIGHT TO THE DEATH... YOURS, THAT IS.

SHYREN...!!
SHE'S DEAD.

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
...HUH?
WHY IS SHE AFRAID OF ME?
ZZZ
ZZ
HEH...
GEE, THANKS FOR BEING SO HONEST.
HEY.
D-DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
WHY ARE YOU KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE FROM ME?
THINK... THINK...
SORRY. TRUTH IS, I DON'T.

HE DOESN'T REMEMBER...
COULD THAT BE TRUE?
WHAT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW IS...
...WHERE THE HECK ARE WE? AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?
UH, WELL...
I DON'T KNOW THAT EITHER. I'M FOLLOWING THIS THING.
THING? I HAVE A NAME, YOU KNOW!
WE'LL FIND OUT SOON.
HELLO ?!!
OW!
YOU STUPID SHRIMP!
DON'T WORRY... WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE SOON.
HUH?
REALLY?
THIS PLACE LOOKS BIGGER THAN IT ACTUALLY IS.
AND BESIDES, WE'RE TAKING A SHORTCUT.
AND THEN...
...ONCE WE'RE OUT...

...YOU'LL REMEMBER EVERYTHING.

WOW.
LOOK AT THIS.
ALL THE BUILDINGS HAVE COLLAPSED. IT MUST BE SWARMING WITH DEMONS HERE.
ARE WE EVEN STILL IN THE DRAGON KINGDOM?
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT BUILDING ON THE TOP OF THE HILL...
THAT'S THE DRAGON CASTLE, ISN'T IT?
THAT REMINDS ME.
I WASN'T ABLE TO DO WHAT RUNE ASKED ME TO DO.
GIAD
RUNE...
I WONDER WHERE HE IS.

SIGH...
SAABEL...
YOU MANAGED TO GET US OUT OF THAT OTHER PLACE, BUT WERE WE HEADED HERE ALL ALONG?
!
.....?
SAABEL--?
WHAT'S WRONG...?
SHIVER

ERK...

TINTLET...!
DELTE!
I SENSE SOMETHING...

I SENSE IT, TOO.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. THERE'S ALSO A FAERIE.
EVEN AFTER SUCH A LARGE SHIFT...
...IT'S STILL THERE.
THE BALANCE OF NATURE HAS BEEN DISRUPTED, HASN'T IT?!
HIS POWER OF VIRTUE IS INCREASING AND TREMBLING...
IT'S PROBABLY ...
...SAABEL.
!
WASN'T HE ORIGINALLY THE WATER DRAGON KNIGHT?
SAABEL? YOU MEAN THE FAERIE WHOSE BLOOD AWOKE THAT TERRIBLE MONSTER?
HE'S AWAKE NOW.
I THOUGHT HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS.

THAT FEELING...
ISN'T IT GROWING TOO FAST?
IT'S NOT JUST GRIEF, IT'S REGRET, TOO. WHAT IS HE REGRETTING AND GRIEVING...?
NOT ONLY IS HE AWAKE ...
...HE'S FILLED WITH REMORSE AND REGRET.
IS IT THE FACT...
...THAT HE BECAME A DEMON...?
THIS DISRUPTION THAT JUST APPEARED ...
...IT STEMS FROM HIS REGRET.
AND IT'S GETTING MORE POWERFUL BY THE SECOND.

I SEE...
THAT'S WHY THE SHIFT EXISTS.
YOU MEAN THIS IMBALANCE HAS BEEN CAUSED BY...
...SAABEL?
MY MEMORY...
...IT'S BACK!

WHAT?
HUH?
I'M MELTING--?!
DIAMOND CLOVER!!

WHAT NOW, TINTLET?
LISTEN, DELTE ...
WE ALL HAVE TO FOCUS OUR POWERS AND HELP HIM.
!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HELP HIM?
!
...DO BY ALL... YOU MEAN, ME, TOO?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?!
THERE'S SOMETHING INVISIBLE INSIDE OF ME...!
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S EATING ME ALIVE...
IT'S GETTING STRONGER!

WE CAN GIVE OUR POWER...
...TO HIM, THAT DRAG-ON.
A FAERIE HAS THE POWER OF VIRTUE TO KEEP THE BALANCE OF NATURE...
THIS NEW DISTORTION IS TRYING TO REFORM THE OTHER DISTORTION MADE BY THE MONSTER IN THIS WORLD.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'LL HARNESS AS MUCH POWER OF VIRTUE AS POSSIBLE AND SEND IT TO HIM.
DRAGON!!
HE IS THE DRAGON OF GOOD WILL.
...HAS COME BACK TO TERMINATE THE MONSTER THAT SNUCK INTO THIS WORLD.
I GET IT...
THE DRAGON...

IT'S OUR FAERIES' DUTY TO GET RID OF THAT MONSTER WHO'S INTENT ON DESTROYING THE WORLD...
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO RESTORE THE BALANCE OF NATURE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY FAERIES THERE ARE LEFT IN THIS WORLD...
...BUT THEY WILL SENSE OUR POWER OF VIRTUE AND GIVE US THEIR POWER, AS WELL--NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE.
I UNDER-STAND.

OH.
.....
JUST AS I THOUGHT ...
SAABEL IS AWAKE NOW.
IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT WE WATCHED SAABEL FADE AWAY...
...AND NOW HE'S AWAKE AND BACK.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
AGAIN?!
WHY AM I ALWAYS THE ONE FALLING?
AAAAAIEEEEE!!!

!
GIL!
YOU'RE ...
...THE FIRE DRAGON KNIGHT.

RATH!
ROOOAAAR
RATH!!

WE CAN'T EXACTLY STEP OVER THEM.
NADIL'S ARMY OF THE DEAD IS HEADED RIGHT FOR US...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
THEY WILL HELP US.
IT DOESN'T MATTER THOUGH.
...WILL GIVE US THEIR POWER...
EITHER GOD, THE LIGHT DRAGON, OR THE LEFT DRAGON ...

...AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITH ME, RATH.
...AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITH ME, CESIA.
HOW DO WE USE THEIR POWER?

UGH!
!!
I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING!
RATH! I CAN'T LOSE HIM!
!!
OH MY GOSH!

AAAAH!
OH GOD!
AAAAIEEEE!

FIRE!
LET'S GO!
WAIT A SECOND!!!
WHERE'S RATH?! HE'S NOT HERE!
UGH!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE HIM. WE HAVE TO FIND HIM!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
.....

WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? GO! GO!
FINE... IF YOU SAY SO...
WHAT HAPPENED TO RATH?!

--RATH!
HEY!!
HMMM, WHAT TO DO...WELL, WE COULD AIM FOR THE SEA OF THE DEAD, AND GET EATEN.
.....!!!
I'M TRYING TO BE SERIOUS HERE!!
THERE'S NO GROUND DOWN THERE!! WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!

HEY!
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?!
THIS IS NO TIME TO JOKE...
CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE FALLING?!
LOOK!
RIGHT THERE!

...RATH!
FLAP...
DON'T WORRY, HANG IN THERE A LITTLE LONGER...
THE LIGHT DRAGON!
OH MY GOD...

...BALANCE TO THE WORLD?!
IN ORDER TO RESTORE...

I AWOKE YUSURUGI...
...BALANCE TO THE WORLD!
...JUST LIKE DIAMOND CLOVER SAID.
IN ORDER TO RESTORE...

Rumble
I THINK SOMETHING DANGEROUS IS COMING...
THATZ!! IS IT OKAY TO TOUCH HIM?!
!!
WE SHOULD WARN THE DRAGON SOLDIERS!
DANGER...

DIAMOND CLOVER!!
...IS A WAY FOR ME TO REDEEM MYSELF.
SOMEHOW THIS PAIN I FEEL
I FEEL THE POWER OF VIRTUE FROM TINTLET AND OTHERS.
WE SHOULD HURRY UP!
YUSURUGI IS APPROACH-ING...

THE SKY IS SO DARK...
IT'S NORMALLY PURPLE.
.....
IS...IS THAT A WING?

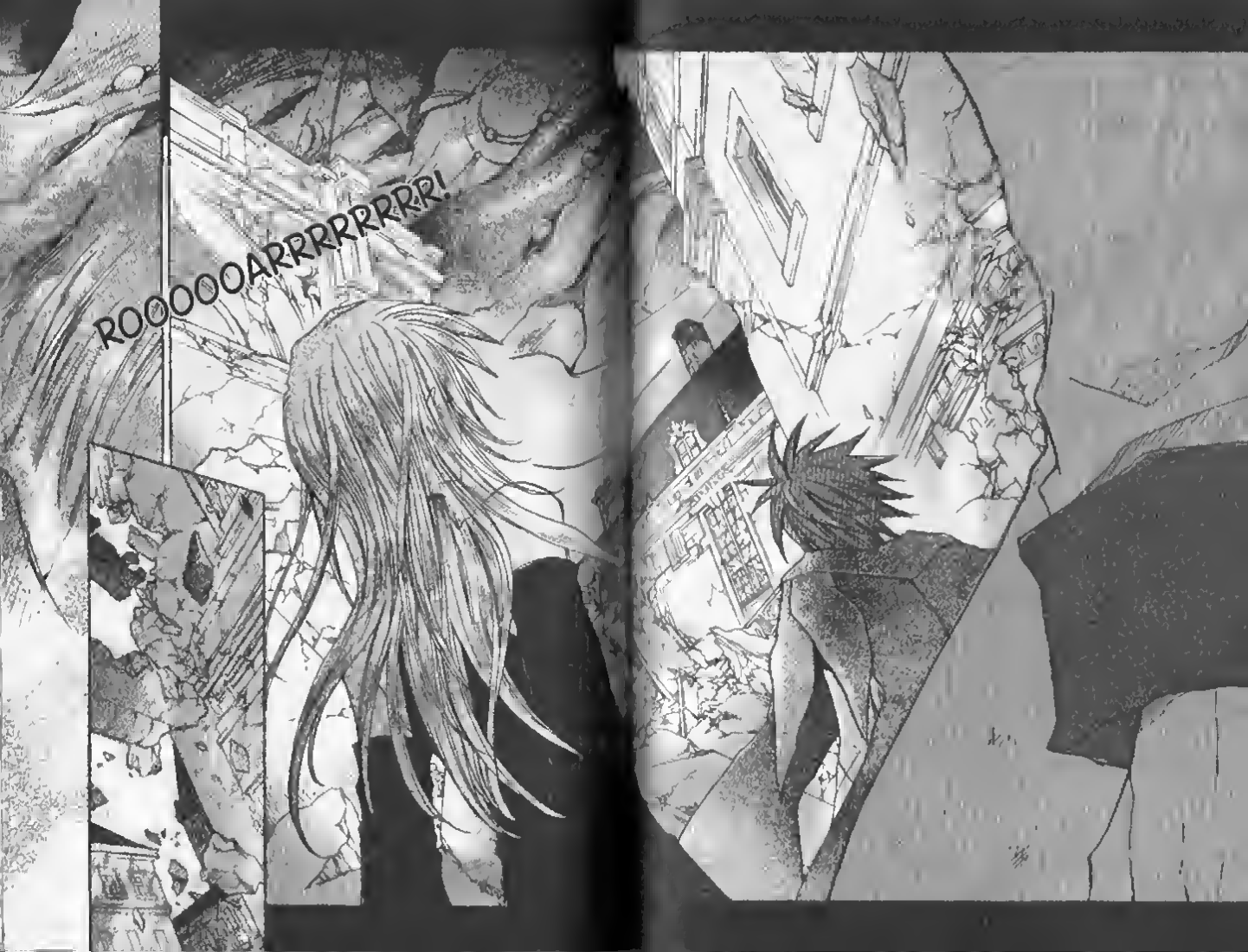
RATH!
EVEN THOUGH NADIL IS USING THE DEAD'S SOULS AS PROTECTIVE ARMOR...
...WE SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO KILL HIM!
THE SOULS ARE EMPTY, LIKE SHELLS.
NADIL...
...HE'S BLUFFING. THE SOULS HE'S USING AS ARMOR AREN'T VERY STRONG.

THAT'S WHY...
...HE'S TRYING TO GET RID OF THEM.
HE NEEDS TO GET MORE NEW SOULS.

HERE HE COMES...
IT'S NADIL!!

CESIA...
YOU SHOULD PREPARE YOUR PHANTOM WIND STAFF...
...POSSESSING THE DEMON POWER OF WIND!
NOW!!
わた
.....!!
THE PHANTOM WIND STAFF? WELL...
OH NO!
I LEFT IT IN-BETWEEN DIMENSIONS...!

WHA...?


ROOOOOARRRRRRRR!

DIAMOND CLOVER...!
?!
HE'S BELIEVED TO BE AN INCARNATION OF THE EMPEROR OF THE DRAGONS--OR THE GOD OF BALANCE IN THE WORLD.
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S THE LEADER OF ALL THE DRAGONS!
WHAT'S THAT...?

JUST DON'T RELEASE VARA-WOO!!
AH!
IT'S ANOTHER SHOWDOWN BETWEEN MONSTERS...
I AL-READY TOLD YOU, I WON'T!!
BESIDES, WE ALL KNOW THAT YUSURUGI WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.
!
AS LONG AS HE'S CONSCIOUS, HE'LL BE OKAY...
RUNE
SAABEL IS...!

GIVE HIM YOUR POWER OF VIRTUE!
IT'LL HELP HIM RECOVER QUICKER.
RIGHT!
!

RUNE, TAKE THE REST OF THEM...
...AND GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME!
THAT'S?!
GO...?
TO WHERE?
WHERE IS DIAMOND CLOVER?
SAABEL...!
HE'LL LEAVE ONCE HIS JOB IS DONE.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO CLOSE. YOU'LL GET HURT.

GIVE DIAMOND CLOVER...
...THE POWER OF VIRTUE...

RUNE!
NADIL'S DEMONS ARE STILL LURKING AROUND...
!
SHE'S RIGHT!
LET'S GATHER THE SURVIVING DRAGON SOLDIERS.

HEY, UGLY!
THE MONSTER YOU RELEASED INTO THIS WORLD IS GONE!
WHAT BETTER TIME TO SETTLE OUR FIGHT?!

TWO SOULS THAT WERE SUPPOSED TO DISAPPEAR WERE GIVEN DEMON POWER BY LORD NADIA.
THEY WERE COMBINED INTO ONE SOUL AND THEN DIVIDED INTO TWO AGAIN.
SHY REN-DORA IS GONE.
THE OTHER HALF OF MY SOUL... IS LOST FOREVER.
MY BROTHER ...
WOULDN'T YOU PREFER TO GO BACK TO BEING A DEMON?

YOUR WORDS...
...MEAN NOTHING TO ME.
WE HAD TWO DIFFERENT SAVIORS.
THERE'S NO COMMON-ALITY LEFT IN OUR THOUGHTS OR ACTIONS.
YOU ARE COLD...
...MY BROTHER.
IT'S SO SIMPLE...
IT WOULDN'T BE HARD FOR US TO ASSIMILATE.

WHAT DO YOU SAY...?
LET US BECOME ONE.

SHYRENDORA HAD THE POWER TO MANIPULATE OTHER'S SPIRITS...
I CAN MANIPULATE BODIES.
BRO-THER...
ECH ...
...YOU'LL FEEL RELIEVED.
DON'T FIGHT IT. ONCE WE ASSIMI-LATE...
SHYDEMAN ...

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY POWER...
THE SOUL I RECEIVED FROM THE DRAGON LORD CAN...
... CAN RESIST AND EVEN PURIFY DEMON POWER.

ERK..
CRACK
CRACK

DRIP
DRIP
I'M GLAD...
...YOU CAME BACK...

WATER.
WE GOT RID OF THE MONSTER, SO WHY ARE THE DEMONS STILL HERE?
IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE CONTROLLED BY NADIL!
.....
AND THE DRAGON LORD IS OUT OF COMMISSION.

UNLESS NADIL IS DEFEATED, THAT HOLE WON'T GO AWAY.
THE PERSON WHO'S STILL IN KAINALDIA...
THE PERSON... WHO CAN DEFEAT NADIL...
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S ANY MATCH FOR NADILS POWER...

THE FISH IS GRILLED AND THE SOUP IS COOKED! COME 'N GET IT!
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS DRY OFF AND COME ON OVER?
YOU LOOK COLD.
WARM UP IN FRONT OF THE FIRE. YOU'LL DRY FASTER.
DO YOU NEED A HAND, RUNE?
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT?! YOU INVITED US FISHING AND THEN PUSHED ME IN THE WATER!
UH...IT SMELLS SURPRISINGLY GOOD.
THATZ, YOU'RE A GOOD COOK.
RATH, WAIT!
DON'T GET THE FIRE TOO CLOSE TO ME. INSTEAD OF WARMING UP, I'LL END UP BURNED.
'COURSE I AM.
EAT UP!
HUH?!
UH, WHAT-EVER YOU SAY ...

EATING THE POND FISH HEROHEROSU BRINGS YOU GOOD LUCK!
WHY? IS IT GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH?
NOT REALLY.
IF YOU GET A RED MARK IN THE CENTER OF YOUR EYE, YOU WIN.
IT'S LIKE GAMBLING.
SO WHERE'S THE RED MARK? IN FRONT? BACK? OR ON THE INSIDE?
YOU WON, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU'RE LUCKY!
IS THAT IT?

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I KEEP THINKING OF THAT TIME...
MAYBE BECAUSE WE WERE HAPPIER THEN...
WHO-EVER HAS THE RED MARK ON THE EYE...
...HE'S THE WINN--

WHAT TIME?
?

OH MY GOSH!!
IS THAT WHAT THE DRAGON LORD WANTED YOU TO BRING?
THAT'S RIGHT!
LAST TIME, I GAVE UP THE FIGHT AND HE TOOK MY BODY.
I'M MORE AFRAID OF FACING HIM AGAIN THAN I IMAGINED I WOULD BE...
I-I-I-

BESIDES...
...HAVING MY BODY DESTROYED IS AS BAD AS IT GETS.
YOU'RE IN MY WORLD NOW...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BEAT ME.

YOUR DEMON POWER MAY ALLOW YOU TO CONTROL A REGION OF THIS WORLD—
I'LL PUT YOUR PATHETIC BODY IN A CASKET AGAIN. THEN, I'LL HAVE EVERYTHING.

BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE IN KAINALDIA, YOU'RE USELESS.
WAIT!
NADIL HAS THAT POWER--!

?!
THE AIR...!
...IT'S VIBRATING!
HE'LL GROW STRONGER IF HE SUCKS UP MY POWER!
STOP HIM!

MY POWER...
...IS BEING SUCKED FROM ME.
WELL?
THERE'S NO WAY..
CAN WE GET ANY CLOSER?!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT THIS.
GIVE IT BACK...!
OH, NO YOU DON'T ...

...I "CREATED" CESIA.
DON'T YOU SEE?
IN ORDER TO COMPLETELY HARNESS THE POWER OF THE WIND DRAGON...

SHE EXISTS FOR ME.
A PART OF HER BODY HAS ALWAYS BELONGED TO ME.

...I WAS... CREATED?
THE DRAGON LORD...
I REMEMBER NOW...
...WHEN I CAME BACK TO TAKE THE DRAGON EMPRESS...
YOU BELONG TO ME. YOU ALWAYS HAVE.

GASP!

DON'T BELIEVE HIM. ZOMA SAID THAT YOU HAVE PARENTS SOMEWHERE...
HE WANTED TO FIND THEM FOR YOU.
THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ME.
CESIA...
YOU CAN'T BE. PART OF YOU...
YOU ARE NOT SPAWNED FROM EVIL.

...SHINES LIKE GOLD.
PART OF YOU WAS FORMED FROM A TRUE DRAGON'S EYE, THE ONE IN THE DRAGON EMPRESS' POSSESSION.
SO, YOU SEE...
...YOU'RE NOT CURSED.
!!
WHICH SIDE WAS IT FROM?
...WHAT WAS THAT?!
!!
DIZZY-

I SENSE GREAT POWER THERE...
IT'S COMING FROM WHERE CESIA IS.
IT'LL BE FINE.
!

LET'S SEE... IT'S NOT MY EXPERTISE, BUT ONE OF THEM NEEDS A "DRAGON'S EYE" IN ORDER TO USE IT.
?
THE THREE TREASURES?
PROBABLY BE THE DRAGON SWORD, DON'T YOU THINK?
I SEE.
THAT'S EASY.
WHO'S GONNA USE IT?

YES, IT'S THE DRAGON EMPEROR.

THAT'S IT!
THE TREASURES OF THE DRAGON LORD!
THE WEAPON THAT THE DRAGON LORD USES WITH THE HELP OF DRAGON EMPRESS DRAGON'S EYE...
THE MAGICAL GUN RAKIETA.

THAT'S THE REASON WHY...
...I DON'T LIKE THIS.
OH, RAKIETA...

COME HERE.
YOU'RE WHAT HE'S AFTER. YOU'RE THE DRAGON'S EYE.
DRAGON'S EYE...

RATH...!!

WILL YOU BE OKAY WITH RAKIETA...?

A DRAGON EMPEROR USES ONE AND A DRAGON EMPRESS USES THE OTHER.
BOTH...
...REQUIRE A DRAGON'S EYE TO MAKE IT WORK.

THE DRAGON EMPEROR USES "RAKIETA" WITH POWER OF "DRAGON'S EYE."
IT'S A WEAPON STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE OUT A DRAGON.
SO WHAT?
YOU CAN STI BACK OUT.
THAT GUN COULD TAKE ALL OF YOUR DRAGON'S POWER
ARE YOU THREATENING ME...?

YOU'RE STAYING ALIVE BY USING POWER FROM THE WIND DRAGON ...!
IF IT LOSES ITS POWER, YOU'LL DIE.
IF I CAN MAKE YOU DISAPPEAR...
...I'LL AVOID A SACRIFICE.

HOW'S THIS?
UM...
WELL, I PREFER A DANGLY PIERCED EARRING, NOT THIS CLIP-ON.
IT'S OKAY.
WELL...
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
QUIT COMPLAINING. I BROUGHT THIS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU. YOU'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT.
HOW DARE YOU...
OF COURSE IT'S OKAY!
WHY ARE YOU SO SET ON PIERCED EARRINGS ANYWAY?
TELL YOU LATER.

I'M SORRY IT'S TAKING ME SO LONG TO GET THE DRAGON EMPRESS READY.
IT'S NOT THAT. I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO DISCUSS.
OKAY, SURE. NO PROBLEM.
I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT IS. DON'T WORRY... WE'LL WRITE YOU WHEN WE GET THERE.
OH, UH...
OKAY.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
RUWALK.
!

UGH.
WELL, BON APPETITE!
ぱんぱかぱ～～～～ん
TA-DAH!
WHY ME?
EAT UP, CAPTAIN!
WHY AM I ALWAYS THE TASTE TESTER?
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING FIRST?
WHAT?
YOU'RE READY TO EAT?
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO DO THIS?

SHE'S ACTING INNOCENT BUT HE'S NO MATCH FOR HER.
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
RUNE!
THE FOREST OVER THERE...
HEY! LISTEN TO ME!
UH... LIM...
I'M BUSY NOW.
OH.
DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A HOUSE IN THAT FOREST?
NO. I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT LAND. TERRITORIAL RIGHTS!

HEY, LIM ...
YOU SHOULD GET DRESSED, TOO.
THERE'S NO MORE LEFT!
THE CAPTAIN ATE ALL OF IT.
ARE YOU READY TO SEE HER OFF?
JUST ABOUT, I THINK.
WELL, AT LEAST I GOT MY FANCY THREADS ON.
THAT'S AMAZING! NO ONE'S BEEN ABLE TO FINISH MY COOKING BEFORE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF.
HOW COULD YOU FEED ANYONE THAT STUFF?
IT'S TIME TO GET READY.

EMPRESS...
OH, RATH...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL ME THAT ANYMORE.
IT'S YOU WHO HAVE THE SOUL OF THE DRAGON LORD
...AND IT'S CESIA WHO HAS THE LIGHT OF THE DRAGON EMPRESS.
IT'S A NEW ERA.
MISS RASELEANE ...

THERE WAS A TIME...
...WHEN I WAS AFRAID OF YOU.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO AFRAID TO EVEN TOUCH YOU, LET ALONE HOLD YOU.
BUT NOW THAT I CAN FEEL HIM IN YOU, I'M NO LONGER AFRAID.

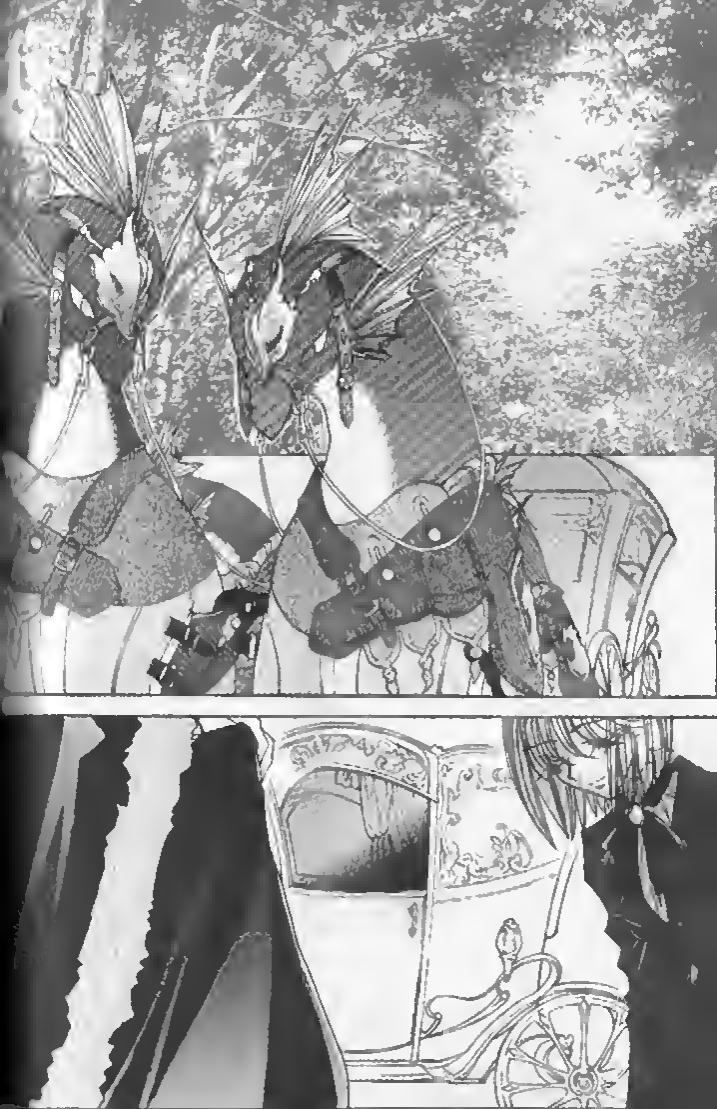
YOU TWO HAVE BECOME ONE.

WHERE IS SAABEL?
I DON'T SEE HIM.
HE'S GONE TO THE DEPTHS OF THE FAERIE FOREST TO HEAL HIS BODY.

IT'S TOO BAD THE DRAGONS CAN'T BE IN HERE WITH US.
IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST. THEY DESERVE A LITTLE BREAK.
THEY'LL WAKE UP AGAIN WHEN THE TIME COMES.

SO THE RED DRAGON OFFICER IS NOW BIERREZ.
I'M THE WHITE DRAGON OFFICER AND YOU'RE THE BLUE ONE.
YELLOW AND BLACK REMAIN THE SAME.
SAABEL IS THE KNIGHT OF THE WATER DRAGON.
GIL IS THE KNIGHT OF THE FIRE DRAGON.

WHICH LEAVE US WITH...
...A NEW DRAGON LORD.
HE STILL REFUSES TO ADMIT THOUGH, DOESN'T HE?
WHAT'LL HE DO IF YOU CALL HIM THAT TO HIS FACE?
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE HE'LL USE HIS POWER TO TURN YOU INTO A DEMON.
YOU'RE AWFUL.



HEY...
WHY IS LADY RASELEANE MOVING TO THE MANSION IN THE MOUNTAINS? THERE'S ROOM FOR HER TO STAY HERE.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF RATH.
.....
YES MA'AM...!
WELL...
...MY GUESS IS...
CLICK
...IF SHE STAYS HERE, SHE'LL BE TOO SAD.
THERE ARE TOO MANY MEMORIES.
カラ!

ガラ…
THERE IS SOMETHING PRECIOUS AND DEAR TO LADY RASELEANE'S HEART.
SHE WANTS TO TREASURE IT AND HOLD IT IN HER MIND FOREVER.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THERE WAS A PATH.
I FEEL LIKE WE'RE MAKING OUR OWN...
GRRZZH
YOU'RE JUST NOT LOOKING CAREFULLY ENOUGH.
LOOK...YOU CAN STILL SEE SIGNS OF THE OLD PATH.
GRRZZH
SUPPOSEDLY, HE'S MADE IT BIGGER NOW, LIKE AN OPEN SQUARE.
I THINK RATH HAD SOME HELP DOING THAT.
WHO? WHEN? WITH BIGREZ?

SLOW DOWN, RATH!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T SEE OFF LADY RASELEANE.
HEY!
YEAH, WELL...
YOU'RE NOT "OFFICIAL" DRAGON KNIGHTS RIGHT NOW.
THEY SHOULD STAY HERE.
THEY'RE OFFICIAL DRAGON KNIGHTS NOW.
OH, THEY'RE NOT COMING.
WHERE ARE GIL AND SAABEL?

AND I WAS GIVEN A WHITE DRAGON BALL. THAT MEANS I'M THE WHITE DRAGON OFFICER, RIGHT?
BUT I'VE GOT A BLUE DRAGON BALL SO I THOUGHT I WAS THE BLUE DRAGON OFFICER!
YOU MEAN GOLD...
BESIDES, WE HAVE SOME IMPORTANT FRIENDS WE SHOULD PAY OUR RESPECTS TO.
WILL YOU GUYS STOP FREAKING OUT? I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY!
WHAT ABOUT BIERREZ? IS HE STILL RED?
AND YOU'RE THE LIGHT DRAGON...

FIRE DRAGON, EARTH DRAGON, WATER DRAGON, WIND DRAGON AND LIGHT DRAGON...
I WONDER IF THEY'RE REALLY SLEEPING HERE.
I TOLD YOU THEY WERE, DIDN'T I?
IT WAS COURTESY OF THE SECRET TREASURES.
...FOR THATZ AND RUNE...
JUST LIKE YOU DID...
ONE DAY, YOU WILL AWAKEN FOR US, OR FOR NEW MASTERS.
SLEEP AND BE AT PEACE.

WHAT WAS THAT, RATH?
YOU FORGOT TO MENTION YOURSELF.
FIRE ONLY WOKE UP BECAUSE HE CHOSE YOU.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR SUPPORT ON THIS LONG SERIES, AS WELL AS APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE TROUBLES THAT I MIGHT HAVE CAUSED: MY ASSISTANTS ON EACH VOLUME (FROM THOSE WHO HELPED ME ONCE, TO THE ONES WHO HELPED ME FOR YEARS AND YEARS), PUBLISHERS, EDITORS, THE PRINTING COMPANY AND ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MY WORK SOMEHOW.

ALSO, I CAN'T THANK THE FANS ENOUGH WHO HAVE SUPPORTED ME FOR SO LONG, SENT ME POSTCARDS AND LETTERS AND READ THE SERIES UP UNTIL NOW.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

PLEASE CHECK OUT MY OTHER WORKS!